

Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Interior

§ 823.12

for a reason set forth in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

§ 822.13 Monitoring.

(a) A monitoring system shall be installed, maintained, and operated by the permittee on all alluvial valley floors during surface coal mining and reclamation operations and continued until all bonds are released in accordance with Subchapter J of this chapter. The monitoring system shall provide sufficient information to allow the regulatory authority to determine that—

(1) The essential hydrologic functions of alluvial valley floors are being preserved outside the permit area or reestablished within the permit area throughout the mining and reclamation process in accordance with § 822.11;

(2) Farming on lands protected under § 822.12 is not being interrupted, discontinued, or precluded; and

(3) The operation is not causing material damage to the quantity or quality of water in the surface or underground systems that supply alluvial valley floors protected under § 822.12.

(b) Monitoring shall be conducted at adequate frequencies to indicate long-term trends that could affect compliance with §§ 822.11 and 822.12.

(c) All monitoring data collected and analyses thereof shall routinely be made available to the regulatory authority.

PART 823—SPECIAL PERMANENT PROGRAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS—OPERATIONS ON PRIME FARMLAND

Sec.

823.1 Scope and purpose.

823.4 Responsibilities.

823.11 Applicability.

823.12 Soil removal and stockpiling.

823.14 Soil replacement.

823.15 Revegetation and restoration of soil productivity.

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 95–87, 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*; Pub. L. 100–34.

SOURCE: 48 FR 21463, May 12, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

§ 823.1 Scope and purpose.

This part sets forth special environmental protection performance, reclamation, and design standards for sur-

face coal mining and reclamation operations on prime farmland.

§ 823.4 Responsibilities.

(a) The U.S. Soil Conservation Service within each State shall establish specifications for prime farmland soil removal, storage, replacement, and reconstruction.

(b) The regulatory authority within each State shall use the soil-reconstruction specifications of paragraph (a) of this section to carry out its responsibilities under § 785.17 and subchapter J of this chapter.

§ 823.11 Applicability.

The requirements of this part shall not apply to—

(a) Coal preparation plants, support facilities, and roads of surface and underground mines that are actively used over extended periods of time and where such uses affect a minimal amount of land. Such uses shall meet the requirements of part 816 of this chapter for surface mining activities and of part 817 of this chapter for underground mining activities;

(b) Disposal areas containing coal mine waste resulting from underground mines that is not technologically and economically feasible to store in underground mines or on non-prime farmland. The operator shall minimize the area of prime farmland used for such purposes.

(c) Prime farmland that has been excluded in accordance with § 785.17(a) of this chapter.

[48 FR 21463, May 12, 1983, as amended at 53 FR 40839, Oct. 18, 1988]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 50 FR 7278, Feb. 21, 1985, § 823.11, paragraph (a) was suspended “insofar as it excludes from the requirements of part 823 those coal preparation plants, support facilities, and roads that are surface mining activities”.

§ 823.12 Soil removal and stockpiling.

(a) Prime farmland soils shall be removed from the areas to be disturbed before drilling, blasting, or mining.

(b) The minimum depth of soil and soil materials to be removed and stored for use in the reconstruction of prime farmland shall be sufficient to meet the requirements of § 823.14(b).